

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-18 and 31 are pending in the present application. The following rejection s remain at issue: Claims 1-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as allegedly obvious over Cook et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,760,082) in view of Cain et al. (WO97/18320) and Baltes, et al. (U.S. 3,162,658) in further view of Nilsen et al. (U.S. 5,885,594); and Claims 1-18 are rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting over claims 9-16 of U.S. Patent No. 6,015,833 in view of Cook et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,760,082.

With respect to the obviousness rejection, Applicants have amended the claims to specify additional process steps where glycerol and esters of glycerol are removed from the esters produced from the starting oil. The cited prior art does not teach or suggest this step, or the necessity of the step. As indicate din the specification, this step prevents formation of trimethoxypropane and triethoxypropane in the final conjugated product. Accordingly, any prima facie of obviousness established by the Examiner is rebutted. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

With respect to the double patenting rejection, again, the cited references do not teach or suggest the steps which have been added to the claims. Accordingly, the double patenting rejection should be withdrawn, as a proper double patenting rejection requires that the cited references teach or suggest each element of the claims.

C O N C L U S I O N

All grounds of rejection been addressed, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. It is respectfully submitted that the invention as claimed fully meets all requirements and that the claims are worthy of allowance. Should the Examiner believe that a telephone interview would aid in the prosecution of this application, Applicant encourages the Examiner to call the undersigned collect at (608) 218-6900.

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